

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Applicant Prior Art* in view of *Juve* (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,428).

Claims 9-11 are allowed.

**Summary of the Response to the Office Action**

A copy of the April 18, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement, the accompanying PTO-Form 1449, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office postcard receipt stamped April 30, 2003 are submitted herewith. Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment. Upon entry of this paper, claims 9-11 will be pending.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant notes that an initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 from the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 18, 2002 was not returned. A copy of the April 18, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying PTO-Form 1449 are submitted herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the documents listed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 18, 2002, evidence that consideration by making an appropriate notation on the PTO-Form 1449 and provide an initialed copy of the PTO-Form 1449 with the next communication.

**The Disposition of the Claims**

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's allowance of claims 9-11 as noted on Page 1 of the Final Office Action.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance.


**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in alternative, in better form for appeal. Applicant also respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should there remain any questions or comments regarding this response or the application in general, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
**MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP**

Dated: December 24, 2003

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